

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

1. (currently amended) A receiver lock for securing an object to a receiver, said lock comprising:
a linear shaft having a first end and a second opposite end;
a locking head having a shaft insertion end and a key insertion end, said insertion end selectively coupled to said [[a]] first end of said [[a]] shaft, and said second end disengaged from said locking head;
a stop member located at said [[a]] second opposite end of the shaft; and
a protective covering partially enclosing an axial length of said locking head and located on the shaft insertion end of said locking head and including a hole for receiving the first end of the shaft;
wherein said protective covering is compressible between said locking head and said receiver.
2. (original) The receiver lock of claim 1, wherein said protective covering is elastomeric.
3. (currently amended) The receiver lock of claim 1, wherein said stop member is a portion of said shaft having an increased diameter an end cap.
4. (original) The receiver lock of claim 1, wherein said stop member is a bent end of the shaft.
5. (original) The receiver lock of claim 1, further comprising a locking mechanism located within said locking head.

6. (currently amended) The receiver lock of claim 1, further comprising a protective cap selectively attachable to an external groove in an end of the locking head opposite the protective covering.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) The receiver lock of claim 1, wherein said protective covering includes a portion of the same diameter as that is flush with a cylindrical outer peripheral surface of the locking head.

9-16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) A receiver lock for securing a ball mount to a receiver, said lock comprising:

a linear shaft having a first end and a second opposite end;

a locking head having a shaft insertion end and a key insertion end, said insertion end selectively coupled to said [[a]] first end of said [[a]] shaft;

a stop member located at a second opposite end of the shaft; and

a protective covering partially enclosing an axial length of said locking head and located on an outer edge of the shaft insertion end of said locking head and including a hole for receiving the first end of the shaft, wherein said protective covering includes a portion of the same diameter as that is flush with a cylindrical outer peripheral surface of the locking head and wherein said first end of the shaft forms an interference fit with said hole in said protective covering.

18. (cancelled)

19. (new) The receiver lock of claim 17, further comprising a protective cap selectively attachable to an external groove in said key insertion end of the locking head opposite the protective covering.

20. (new) The receiver lock of claim 17, wherein said stop member is a portion of said shaft having an increased diameter.

21. (new) The receiver lock of claim 17, further comprising a shaft protective cover located on the outside of said shaft, wherein said shaft protective cover is disposed between said lock housing and said stop member.

22. (new) The receiver lock of claim 17, wherein said protective covering is compressible between said locking head and said receiver.

23. (new) The receiver lock of claim 1, wherein said protective covering acts as a seal to prevent debris from entering an internal portion of said locking head.

24. (new) The receiver lock of claim 17, wherein said protective covering acts as a seal to prevent debris from entering an internal portion of said locking head.

25. (new) A receiver lock assembly comprising:
a linear shaft having a first end with an external circumferential recess and a second end having a stop member;
a locking mechanism including a lock housing, a lock cylinder fixed within said housing, a rotatable cam engaged to said lock cylinder, and a locking plate coupled to said cam, wherein said locking plate is selectively coupled to said external recess of said first end of a shaft; and
a shaft protective cover located on the outside of said shaft, wherein said protective covering is disposed between said lock housing and said stop member.

26. (new) The receiver lock assembly of claim 25, wherein said stop member is a bent end of the shaft.

27. (new) The receiver lock assembly of claim 25, wherein said stop member is a portion of said shaft having an increased diameter.

28. (new) The receiver lock assembly of claim 25, wherein said stop member is a radially protruding member.

29. (new) The receiver lock assembly of claim 25, wherein said shaft protective cover is a radius adapter.

30. (new) The receiver lock assembly of claim 25, wherein said shaft protective cover is a stainless steel cylinder.

31. (new) The receiver lock assembly of claim 25, wherein said shaft protective cover is a coating.

32. (new) The receiver lock assembly of claim 25 further comprising a protective covering partially enclosing an axial length of said locking housing and including a hole for receiving the first end of the shaft, wherein said protective covering acts as a seal to prevent debris from entering an internal portion of said locking head.